

DOCKET NO.: E0295.70201US00

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

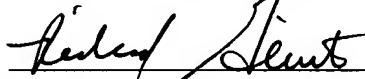
Applicants: Stephen J. TODD and Michael KILIAN  
Serial No: 10/762,036  
Confirmation. No.: 3938  
Filed: January 21, 2004  
For: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR INDIRECTLY IDENTIFYING A  
RETENTION PERIOD FOR DATA IN A STORAGE SYSTEM

Examiner: Unassigned  
Art Unit: 2171

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)**

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows: